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gives a summary account of the general visitation, being chiefly an historical survey.

The second part of the book, or the body (chapters IV.-IX.), relates in great detail the activities of Gálvez, while he was in New Spain as visitor-general. From documents cited in the appendix it is clear that Gálvez was commissioned to investigate the affairs of the judicial and treasury (hacienda) departments of New Spain and possessed extensive powers for carrying out his task. Despite this twofold commission the author holds that the later efficiency of Gálvez was due to his experience in the affairs of public finance. Consequently, without explaining further why all reference to judicial matters is omitted, he places all emphasis upon the financial administration of New Spain. The subjects treated in this section include an account of the tobacco monopoly, details of the conflict of Gálvez and Viceroy Cruillas over the extent of their respective authorities, the activities of Gálvez in connection with the expulsion of the Jesuits, and his work on the peninsula of Lower California, carried out with a view to advancing the settlements of that region.

The final part comprises the last chapter (X.) and is a lengthy summary of Spanish colonial revenues, condensed from the works of Maniau (*Compendio de la Historia de la Real Hacienda de Nueva España*) and Fonseca and Urrutia (*Historia General de Real Hacienda*). It is the most complete statement in English upon the subject and as such possesses admirable merit.

The appendix contains careful translations of the instructions to Gálvez and other documents relating to the subject. There is a bibliography, which includes a complete list of the manuscript sources and a select list of the printed authorities which were used in the preparation of the work. The volume shows a vast amount of painstaking labor and is readable and interesting throughout. It is a valuable contribution to the study of Spanish colonial institutions.

ROSCOE R. HILL.

British Exploits in South America: a History of British Activities in Exploration, Military Adventure, Diplomacy, Science, and Trade in Latin-America. By W. H. KOEBEL. (New York: The Century Company. 1917. Pp. xiv, 587. \$4.00.)

For the most part the present work is a compilation of extracts culled from contemporary accounts by British writers and pieced together into a somewhat disjointed narrative. So much is the author under the spell of the ancient chroniclers that he has even prefaced each chapter with a tediously long analysis of its contents. Like all of Mr. Koebel's books on South America, the volume is intended for the general reader who seeks entertainment as well as instruction. Of the four parts into which it is divided the first covers the period up to the eighteenth century, including the story of the first English mariners to

"sail the Spanish Main(!)". The second describes the activities of the British up to the close of the Hispanic-American wars of independence. In the third the tale is continued from that point onward through most—and not the "early part"—of the nineteenth century, with especial reference to Brazil. The fourth, entitled "Scientific and Literary Observers", discusses British Naturalists, South America in English Print, other British "achievements", and To-day and To-morrow in South America. At the close are an appendix which, though entered as a separate item in the table of contents, is really a bibliography of books on South America published since 1870, and a list of "British arrivals in the River Plate at the beginning of the nineteenth century". The book, also, is provided with illustrations more or less apt in reference and plan of insertion.

The chapter on "South America in English Print" is a running commentary on many of the books put forth in that language up to about 1870. From the list the volumes published by the Hakluyt Society are omitted intentionally; but why they should have been included in the bibliography of works issued since that date is not clear. The latter, certainly, is not characterized by either accuracy or exhaustiveness, and lacks any sort of evaluation. That the works by Dawson and Scruggs should be mentioned twice, that Bourne's treatise, along with numerous others of merit, is ignored, that the authorship of Helps's volumes is ascribed to Oppenheim, and that a reprint of Humboldt's account should be put down as a recent contribution, are defects not remedied by the inclusion of substantially all of Mr. Koebel's own books. The chapter on To-day and To-morrow in South America is given over to a sketch of certain reasons for the decline of British trade. As might be expected under present circumstances, it displays a marked animus against the German competitor; but that is hardly a good excuse for converting the old Augsburgers into "Prussian" Welsers (p. 530).

Were Mr. Koebel as familiar with the Spanish language and records as he is with those he actually uses, he would not have allowed so many errors and omissions to mar his pages. That he calls the attention of the reader to the fact that a "total lack of haste in its preparation" (p. vii) is one of the merits of the book, makes the blemishes all the worse. To single out one or two of them: Rio de Janeiro could hardly have been "discovered" at any time (p. 12); the Inquisition surely did not "set out across the ocean" in 1533 (p. 19); the derivation of "gringo" (p. 253) is neither novel nor accurate; and "bucaneers", "Guazus", "Inglez", "Inglessa" need some rectification in spelling. Anyone at all acquainted, also, with the story of British "achievements" in Spanish America during the eighteenth century might have expected to find an allusion at least to smuggling operations at Porto Bello and to the "exploits" of the *Royal George*.

WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD.